Statement

List of Paras figuring in C&AG Report No. 2 of 2001 relating to telecast of programmes by Doordarshan

S.No.	Para No.	Description
1.	2.2	Working of Doordarshan Sports Consortium.
2.	2.3	Loss of Rs. 25.44 crore due to undue benefit to sponsors.
3.	2.4	Loss of Rs. 9.44 crore due to late booking of satellite.
4.	2.5	Loss due to short accounting of commercial time.
5.	2.6	Loss due to faulty decision
6.	2.7	Loss of revenue in telecasting a commissioned programme on sponsorship.
7.	2.8	Non-recovery of dues from advertising agencies.

Closure of DD News Channel

3571. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has decided to discontinue DD News Channel;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) the amount of loss incurred, so far, since its commencement;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have identified officers who are responsible for the huge losses and defaming Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that as a part of its restructuring exercise, Prasar Bharati closed down DD News and Current Affairs Channel with effect from 26.1.2002 due to its high cost and low visibility. DD-National Channel, which has an extensive reach, now carries more programmes on news and current affairs, to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

An amount of Rs. 94.2 crore was allocated to the channel during its two and half years existence, for programming and other exigencies, which cannot be construed as a loss.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Complaint regarding denial of justice to dock workers

3572. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a complaint regarding denial of justice to 21 dock workers of New Mangalore Port Trust;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on such a complaint; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The complaint is against a sitting Judge of the Karnataka High Court and pertains to a period prior to his appointment as a Judge of the High Court. As the complaint is not in relation to the discharge of his duties as a Judge, it has not been possible for the Government to take any action in the matter.

Scope of Lok Adalats

3573. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend the scope of Lok Adalats to provide compulsory pre-litigation mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases relating to the public utility services;

(b) whether Government are proposing to extend the limit of Lok Adalats upto Rs. 50 lakhs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) At present, the Lok Adalats can settle disputes only on the basis of compromise or settlement among the parties. If the parties do not arrive at a settlement, the case is either returned to the court of law or the parties are advised to seek remedy in a court of law. To remove this drawback, it has been decided to add a new chapter in the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987,